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Measures to eliminate international terrorism

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Identical letters dated 25 May 2015 from the Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I wish to convey to you the following information:

The terrorist destroyers of history and civilization continue to commit crimes against the Syrian people and State. The organization known as Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) overran the historic city of Tadmur (Palmyra), one of the oldest cities in the world, whereupon they proceeded, as is their wont, to wreak destruction, terrorize peaceful civilians and commit horrific massacres of the city's defenceless population. On taking control of Tadmur, the terrorist massacred dozens of peaceful civilians, the majority of whom were children, women and elderly persons. The hordes of ISIL terrorists also prevented thousands of civilians from leaving that historic city and they took many families and youths away to unknown locations. The fate of those families remains undetermined.

The Syrian Arab Republic stresses that those acts of terrorism would not have occurred were it not for the myriad forms of support that certain States, which are well known to you, have been providing for more than four years to *takfirist* terrorist organizations such as ISIL; the Nusrah Front; the so-called Army of Conquest, which is the new guise of the Nusrah Front and other terrorist organizations that are offshoots of Al-Qaida; the Free Army; and other terrorist gangs that espouse an exclusionary, Wahhabist ideology and the members of which come from more than 90 countries. Those organizations have been receiving generous support from regimes in the region and beyond, at the forefront of which are the regimes of Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Turkey and Israel. That support has been made possible thanks to the wilful ignorance and collusion of certain Western States, which have backed those organizations in order to undermine Syria and weaken its role, and the reckless policies pursued by some States and their leaders that see the Syrian crisis as an opportunity to serve their narrow interests, which are now well known to all. They have been providing all forms of support to the

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terrorists and their organizations, in brazen disregard of the suffering endured by Syrians, on the one hand, and of the Charter of the United Nations, international law and the obligation to counter terrorism, on the other.

The horrific massacre perpetrated in Tadmur is a continuation of the crimes that have been committed by armed terrorist groups since the crisis in Syria began. Those crimes include crimes against humanity and the systematic destruction and plunder of ancient international heritage sites that date back to the beginning of human history, with a view to wiping out the culture of Syria, the cradle of civilizations and one the first lands that humans settled. Tadmur, one of the most glorious cities in human history, has been seized by armed terrorist groups. Meanwhile, many of those who ceaselessly claim that they are the champions of counter-terrorism remain silent, while others take a tepid position the sole purpose of which is to deflect blame and give the false impression that they are combatting terrorism.

Syria reiterates that it is prepared to cooperate bilaterally and at the regional and international levels to combat terrorism. It has also stated that it supports any genuine international effort aimed at countering the scourge of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, provided that, in doing so, every effort is made to safeguard civilian lives, respect national sovereignty and adhere to international instruments. The so-called open war against terrorism contrived by certain countries and that has been going on for nearly a year has not achieved any of its stated aims. Instead, it has enabled the terrorist organization ISIL and the groups that are affiliated and allied with it to expand, move and spread not only in Syria and Iraq, but also in Egypt, Libya and some other African countries, and even in Saudi Arabia. The international community must therefore stand resolutely in the face of those States that support and fund terrorism and armed terrorist groups, the hatred of which has spread to the countries of the region and the entire world. On the other hand, it should be noted that there are States that claim to be combatting terrorism and have joined counter-terrorism alliances while, at the same time, they are funding, arming and harbouring terrorists and promoting their cause.

The Security Council must uphold its commitment to combating terrorism and extremist terrorist groups by implementing its counter-terrorism resolutions, particularly resolutions 2170 (2014), 2178 (2014) and 2199 (2015), both in word and deed, and without politicization or double standards. It should do so in complete cooperation and coordination with the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic, which has been combatting terrorism for quite some time on behalf of all the peoples of the world, in order to defend humanity, justice and freedom, and keep at bay the evils of the ideologies of extremism, fanaticism and destructive terrorism.

The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic affirms its resolve to combat terrorism in Syria and its determination to continue fulfilling its duty to defend the Syrian people. It once again calls on the Security Council and the Secretary-General to take effective measures against armed terrorist groups and those States that support and sponsor them, including the regimes in each of Turkey, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Jordan and certain Western countries, in accordance with the relevant Security Council resolutions.

I should be grateful if the present letter could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 107, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Bashar **Ja'afari**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative